

M MacLean, Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS.

If paid within three months, . . . 00¢
If paid within three months after the close of the year, . . . 3 50
If paid within twelve months after the close of the year, . . . 5 00
If not paid within that time, . . . 5 00
A company of ten persons taking the paper at the same Post Office, shall be entitled to it at \$25 provided the names be forwarded together, and accompanied by the money.
No paper to be discontinued but at the option of the editor till arrears are paid.
Advertisements not exceeding sixteen lines, inserted for one dollar the first time, and fifty cents each subsequent insertion.
Persons sending in advertisements are requested to specify the number of times they are to be inserted; otherwise they will be continued till ordered out, and charged accordingly.
The Postage must be paid on all communications.

From the Farmers Cabinet.

MANURE.

What is the greatest quantity of Manure to be obtained from given means?

Mr. Elger.—There are in agricultural, as perhaps in every science, some leading propositions, calculated in a particular manner to arrest attention by their prominent importance. Such I hold that of a "Subscriber" in your May number—"What will be a re- of land produce?" and also the question which heads this article.

Were it possible at once to afford a complete and palpable solution to these two propositions, what mind can calculate the vast increase of treasures that would instantly become accessible to humanity? As, then, we cannot inquire too strictly, or know too much regarding them, I propose, after recapitulating a few of the principal statements of a "Subscriber," concerning the latter question, to furnish my own experiments upon the former.

He informs us that a single acre of his land, with abundant manuring and superior cultivation, was made to produce the sum of \$348 40 per annum, for five successive years, besides the vegetables used in a small family. He further states, in substance, as his present conviction, that the quantity of soil cultivated has nothing to do with the secret of gathering money out of it; that "this altogether depends on a judicious selection of soil, on the facility of obtaining manure, and on the proper application of its food for plants," &c.—that he found, by actual experiment, made upon a large scale, "that the profit of capital laid out in land produced an interest of only five per cent. per annum, the capital laid out in manure upon the same land produced twenty per cent."

Now, my own experience, as I shall presently show, abundantly confirms the probable accuracy of all these statements. Let us distinctly understand, then, that it is not the great quantity of land, but the abundance of manure upon a little, that is alone required to give wealth and independence; that the man who owns five or six acres, may according to the above data, with the aid of manure and good management, draw from \$1,800 to \$2,000 from them each year, while he of a hundred acres may scarcely obtain half of it upon the common plan.

But where is the requisite manure to be obtained that shall so suddenly and surely enrich the farmer? In reply to this, I will simply give my own experience, and by its endeavor to convince the reflecting farmer, what amount can, and in fact has been made from means comparatively more limited than is generally imagined possible.

Previous to 1829, I had followed in Philadelphia a sedentary occupation, which by excessive application in it, had so entangled my constitution, that I was obliged to seek in the country for that measure of health which I might no longer hope for in the city. So I bought, with my scanty savings, a small place of ten and a half acres, and moved upon it the same fall of 1829.

Not being acquainted with farming, I hired a man to plough two and a half acres, and sow it in rye. The cost of seed and labor, in putting in, gathering and thrashing the said crop, was \$3 56. The crop yielded five and a half bushels of very poor black rye, fit only for hay feed—say at forty cents per bushel, (as good rye was then selling at fifty and fifty-six cents per bushel), was worth \$2 20, and the net loss sustained upon farming the ground was \$6 36. The season was moderately good for grain, and the two and a half acres, rather a favorable specimen of the rest of my land. I planted a potato patch the following spring (1830,) of about the fourth of an acre, which I manured in the hills with one load of marl only, and the crop yielded but three and a half bushels!

Being a total stranger to the nature and character of soils, but having previously, from some cause, entertained the notion that land in general produced about twenty-five bushels of wheat, or forty bushels of wheat, or forty bushels of corn: or four or five loads of hay to the acre, the conviction I had now received of the absolute worthlessness of my land fell upon me like the shock of a thunder-clap. Discouraged by the greatness of my disappointment, but not quite confounded, I determined that manure, in future should be every thing to me and stand in the stead of both land and crop. Being greatly improved in health, by the change of situation and exercise, I plied my avocation with increased diligence for the maintenance of my family, and made it the amusement of my leisure hours and leisure moments to collect from every corner, and pannel of fence, every thing that I imagined could furnish a vegetable nutriment, and

placed it in the cow yard, so combined with the litter as to absorb and retain every thing of the putrescent character that might be deposited there. By such means I have gone on, every year increasing the quantity of my manure, to an extent that I believe astonished most of my neighbours. The following is a sketch of the means I possessed, and the methods I took to obtain manure for the present year.

I commenced last summer by collecting into the outer part of my hog pen every thing of the weed kind I could find about the place, till I had a layer about twelve inches deep, which I covered with a layer of earth about five inches thick, continuing the process till the pen was filled to about two and a half feet deep. In the fall I littered my loose corn cobs and the principal part of the buckwheat straw into the pen, interspersed with layers of earth in the same manner.—The two stalls of my stable I served also the same, taking care to save therein all the chaff and refuse straw after thrashing. In these stalls I poured weekly, through the fall and winter, (for I had no cattle in them except in bad storms) the soap-suds and such putrescent fluids that might be obtained, keeping the corners and outsides, and under the mangers carefully saturated.

As soon as my corn was gathered in the fall, I cut the stubs close to the ground, and waded them immediately, while yet heavy, into the barn yard, where I packed them in every part of it, and also under the shed, being an area of ground about forty feet by twenty, and in a few days covered them also with a layer of earth, from a fence-row, close by, to the depth of about eight or ten inches. Upon this earth I fostered my three cattle during the winter, occasionally depositing more earth upon the litter as it collected there.

Your readers will readily judge, that the object of all this preparation was not so much for the sake of saving the materials collected there as to obtain a manure, or rather sponge, if I may so call it, calculated, to absorb and retain all the urine deposited in the yard during the winter. The compost-masses, however, or layers, thus collected together, are not to be considered as manure prepared for the soil, but only as materials that require to be thoroughly mixed in order to reduce them to a state fitted for a rapid and complete incorporation with the soil. Accordingly, with this view, I commenced late in April the operation of turning it, which, from its having become closely packed to the depth of twenty inches, with the stalks at the bottom, could only be done with the aid of a grubbing hoe, turning it in strips about a foot wide, reaching across the yard, and throwing the loosened manure back a sufficient space to allow a trench between, wide enough to work in. After removing the whole cover from the stalks, along a strip, as before mentioned, they were easily grubbed up, by first cutting them through all along the solid edge of the strip with the hoe, it being made pretty sharp for the purpose. In addition to this pile of yard manure, I have also emptied the contents of my hog pen and stables, extending the pile several feet, and lying upon the ground when first loosened, mortuarian two and a half feet deep. Of this manure I have used sixteen loads this spring, for truck and garden, and, judging from the size of the pile yet remaining, there cannot be less than sixty loads, when being turned once more, I intend to use for wheat next fall.

In this manner, from only three head of cattle, and the fattening of four hogs, I have made from seventy to eighty-two horse loads of manure, the highly fertilizing properties of which are abundantly attested by my own former experience. I will not say that I am stronger than the best barn-yard manure, but from its closer affinity to the nature of the soil, and greater facility for being rapidly combined and incorporated, without loss by evaporation, I have no doubt it will be frequently found, upon trial, more effective and more durable.

In the process of turning manure, thus prepared, I hold it of the highest importance to mix well the earthy and vegetable parts together. Few are perhaps aware how rapidly the earth facilitates vegetable decomposition, and to what a surprising degree it absorbs the excess of fertilizing effluvia, which must otherwise be evaporated during the process of decomposition. This circumstance, I believe, taken in connexion with the careful economizing of all animal excretions, constitutes chiefly the great secret (I might, perhaps, add alleged necromancy,) that has added already so much verdure to my previously exhausted soil, and been so profitable to me, and so surprising to my neighbours.

No farmer can imagine, that has not tried the experiment, what a prodigious quantity of rich vegetable, and fibrous earth may be collected from corners and by-places which lie out of the way of cultivation, and which, from their retired position, have perhaps never so much as attracted his notice. All such refuse trash, and fibrous earths and weeds, by being conveyed to his barn-yard, at intervals, during the fall and winter, and judiciously combined with its contents, will be converted into a rich, fertilizing, and durable manure, merely by absorbing and retaining that excess of putrescent fluids and effluvia which is otherwise lost by filtration and evaporation; that is, by soaking away and drying up.

W. H.
Pittstown, Salem Co. N. J.
May 20th 1838

From the Southern Agriculturist.

CULTIVATION OF IRISH POTATOES.

Potatoes delight most in a rich loam, but not too moist. Wet land produces too much top and watery fruit, which will not keep through the winter, and is always strong and unpleasant to the taste. Very dry land produces a small crop and knotty run. Land that is apt to bake (as we commonly phrase it,) should also be avoided.

For this crop, the earth should be well ploughed so as to pulverize and clear it of weeds. It should have nothing about it to shade it—a great error in the cultivation of potatoes is, too much hilling of them. I have found, by many years experience, that if potatoes are planted in a mellow soil, they need scarcely any hilling. They will beat themselves at that distance from the surface of the ground, which gives them the greatest advantage to procure nourishment. This depth, I have observed, is generally about four inches; and this depth the plant finds by something which I will venture to call instinct. If the earth in which you plant potatoes should be hard, and not yield to the pressure of the roots, it will then be necessary to hill them; but great care must be taken not to hill them too much: never let them be covered above four inches; and this hilling must be given with discretion; for if they have bedded themselves (as they will in mellow land) four inches, and you add four inches more of earth, you suffocate the fruit. Take an example; potatoes, just as they begin to blossom, begin to form their bulbs. If you leave them now, the fruit will grow rapidly; but if you should add earth to the hill, the young bulbs, for want of that air which can pervade four inches of earth, will cease to grow, and others will sprout above them; and this will be the progress of nature so long as you continue to burden them with earth. Therefore, to procure an early crop of potatoes be sure to give them your last earth as soon as the plant is big enough to receive it.—When they know (excuse the expression) that you have left your earthing, they will begin to vegetate, and increase with great rapidity, but will make no progress while you keep burdening and stifling them.—Thus much as to the culture.

A word relative to the time of gathering this crop must conclude these remarks.—Every production of the earth has its maturity. If you harvest potatoes, before they are ripe, the juice will be crude, they will be unpleasant to the taste, and will not keep so well as if suffered to grow longer. The sign of ripeness in this fruit is the fading of the leaf and shrinking of the stock. This is remarkable in almost all bulbous roots, especially the onion and potato, that they receive their first nourishment from the root, and finish their growth by what they receive from the top.

EXPERIENCE.

Pendleton District.
MANURING WITH ROTTEN LOGS AND BRUSH.
[Correspondence of the Farmer's Register.]
Clarksville, February 12.

Upon the testimony of some of the most respectable and v- ritable gentlemen of Halifax county, Virginia, I shall proceed to give you an account of the remarkable effects of a new and rare manure, as exhibited by an experiment in that country, a few years since. The manure above alluded to, is only rare as to the manner of its application, for in old Virginia it very much abounded. The experiment was as follows: A gentleman cut down the pine growth which he covered a piece of land, exhausted and tired out of cultivation by his father or grandfather. As is usual, he suffered the logs and brush to lie upon the land the first summer.—In the fall a d- winter succeeding, he commenced his preparations for a crop of corn, by running two strokes with a large two-horse plough in the same furrow, one turning to the right, and one to the left. This trench thus made, was filled with the logs and brush of the pine trees most convenient to it, which cleared a place for the second furrow: and so on, until his log and brush material was all consumed. With this preparation he passed over half the land. The balance was simply flushed with the same two horse plough, and well manured from the stable and farm-pen. The crop grown on the beds, manured in the hill with pine logs and brush, was not only the best corn of the two, but was unusually rich in its growth, and heavy in its production. The owner of the corn was induced, from its remarkably luxuriant appearance, to pull up one of the logs, during the growing of the crop, to see how it was that such vigor was imparted to it; he found the countless number of little thread-like roots, which mainly contribute to the supply of the vegetable, to have perforated the water-soaked and partly decayed trunks and limbs of the pine trees, buried below.

Here, Mr. Editor, is a fountain of manure, which, in its general diffusion through our State, and in its practical good effects as demonstrated above, bids fair to rival the boasted marl-beds of lower Virginia; and that which has been regarded as an indication of poverty and decay in our lands, may be made the instrument of their restoration and recovery.

Your obedient servant,
T. CARRINGTON.

MAKING WALKS IN GARDENS.
We have seen many gardens, well stocked with vegetables and blooming with flowers, which might have been greatly improv-

ed in appearance by adopting a somewhat more tasteful method of making the walks. These are frequently, with great labor, dug half a foot or more deep, and made level upon the surface—the soil being thrown upon the adjacent beds or borders. An incomparably neater method is to make the walk three or four inches deep at the sides, gently rounded, and highest in the middle. This looks better, is not so much affected by wet weather, and is much more easily kept in order. The level walk is objectionable on many accounts. It requires ten times more labor to make it than the other. It has an awkward appearance when it is made, especially if deep. If not gravelled, it becomes and remains muddy after a shower; and if the garden is not on perfectly level ground it soon washes into ruts, and then is hard to repair.

The walks in the garden are, generally, a great enhancement of, or a foul blot upon its beauty. Made convex, as we have recommended, and covered with gravel, (where it is convenient or practicable) they constitute one of the pleasantest features in that pleasant picture—the neatly arranged garden.

Doing up the sides of Beds and Borders as intimately connected with the neatness of the walks, may also deserve a passing notice. This may be well and handsomely done with the spade and line alone; but if the sides have no other support, it will be necessary to repeat this tedious job every Spring—to avoid which, various means are resorted to.—It is said that limestone curbing, where it is light and uniform has an exceedingly neat appearance; and hard bricks laid on the edges, we know answers admirably. But a cheaper, though less durable material, may be had in cedar, locust, or even good white-oak plank or lathes, an inch thick, and about four inches broad. These properly put down, neatly jointed at the corners, and nailed to stakes driven inside the beds, and a little below their surface, so as not to be seen, will not only look well, but last a number of years, and are easily repaired when they do fail. Plank of the above dimensions and managed as directed, will be found to be a very different affair from the broad, rough boards which are sometimes seen in our gardens, propping up a high bed or border, at the side of a deep walk, themselves propped up by stakes driven outside the beds, the whole of materials and workmanship which are destined to speedy dilapidation.—Tennessee Farmer.

PREMIUMS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SILK.

The executive committee of the American Silk Society, in accordance with the constitution of said society, offer the following premiums, viz:

1st. For the greatest quantity of merchantable raw silk, produced by any individual from cocoons of his or her own raising during the year 1839, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, or plate of that value at their option.

2d. To the person or association who shall make the greatest quantity of merchantable raw silk from one-fourth of an acre of ground, the trees of which shall have been planted in the year 1839, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS or plate of that value, at their option.

3d. To the person or association who shall make the second greatest quantity of merchantable raw silk from one-fourth of an acre of ground, the trees of which shall have been planted in the year 1839, ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, or plate at their option.

4th. For the best pound of sewing silk, made from cocoons of the competitor's own raising, in 1839, FIFTY DOLLARS, or plate of that value, at their option.

5th. For the second best pound of sewing silk, made from cocoons of the competitor's own raising in 1839, THIRTY DOLLARS, or plate of that value, at their option.

Five pounds of the silk offered for the first premium, and the whole quantity produced for the other four premiums, must be deposited with James O. Law, treasurer of the American Silk Society, in Baltimore previous to the next annual meeting of the Society, which takes place on the 11th December, 1839.

GIDEON B. SMITH,

Cor. Sec'y. American Silk Society

CAN YOU CIPHER.

Suppose a man fond of noise and fun to burn twelve and a half cents worth of powder every day, how much will be destroyed in a year?—Answer—\$65 50. How much in forty years?—Answer—\$1,820. And suppose he spends one hour in burning it, and that the hour be worth twelve and a half cents, how much will this item in forty years?—Answer—\$1,820 more. Three thousand six hundred and forty dollars, gone for gunpowder and fun!

Suppose, instead of paying the money for that powder, he had saved it, and instead of wasting that hour daily he had earned twelve and a half cents, and put both on interest: at simple and compound interest, what would have been the amount in forty years?—Answer—\$14,117 44!—Fourteen thousand one hundred and seventeen dollars & forty four cents! Enough to purchase a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, at one dollar twenty five cents per acre: and build on it a house worth two thousand dollars; a barn worth one thousand dollars; dig a well worth one hundred dollars: buy furniture worth eight hundred and seventeen dollars forty four cents; farming utensils worth one thousand dollars; ten horses worth one hundred dollars each; ten yoke of oxen, each yoke worth one hundred dol-

lars; forty cows worth twenty five dollars each; one thousand sheep worth three dollars each; eighty hogs worth ten dollars each; and enough left to educate two sons at college, giving them one thousand dollars each!—Enough to make a farmer some- what independent in these hard times.

No what is the difference between wasting one hour and twelve and a half cents a day for powder and fun, and wasting the same time and money for intoxicating drink?

Can't you cipher? The man who spends his twelve and a half cents worth of grog, and his twelve and a half cents worth of time, daily, loses in forty years, that fine farm with all its valuables. He loses all his comfort. For you may just as well at tempt to comfort a man under a burning fever with baked pork and beans, as administer comfort with two jerry, hot punch, or any other abominable broth. He loses his character.—Who respects the grog bruiser? He loses his health of a, and usually his reason, and in the end is lost himself.

Now, if you can cipher, try and estimate his loss.

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

Extrait from their Journal.

ABRAHAM B. VANDERPOEL SWORN AS A

WITNESS.

Examined by Mr. Wise.

Question. While you were connected with the custom-house, do you know whether or not the officers of the customs were called upon to pay any part of their salaries, or any assessment or tax thereon, for party or political purposes? If yes, state whether you have ever, and when you have made any such payment, and state the motive upon which such payments were made.

Mr. Wagener objected to the propounding of this interrogatory, and called for the yeas and nays.

The committee decided that the interrogatory should be propounded. Yeas—Messrs. Curtis, Dawson, Harlan, Smith, Wise—5. Nays—Mr. Wagener.

The interrogatory was then propounded, and the witness gave the following:

Answer. The Weighers were called on to pay \$15 each for the support of the election, and when I declined, Mr. Vanderpoel, the Deputy Surveyor, observed that I ought to consider whether my \$1,500 per annum was not worth paying \$15 for. Under the impression that it was the price for my situation, I paid it. The above occurred during the last spring election for charter officers. During my holding office, for about five years, I was occasionally called on, but always declined until within the last two years.

Question. Is the office of Weigher, which you held, regarded as one under the United States, and the salary of which was paid out of the Treasury of the United States?

Answer. Latterly paid out of the Treasury; formerly a commission was allowed on the amount of goods weighed. The office is one held from the United States.

Question. Do you know whether other subordinate officers besides yourself in the custom-house were called on and required to pay such tax or assessment upon their salaries, for the use of party and political purposes?

Answer. Only by hearsay, as it regards the other officers, but I saw many of the Weighers pay the tax of \$15.

Question. Was the money thus collected from you and others to be used for political purposes? If yes, for which of the then and present political parties?

Answer. It was intended to be used to support the election of persons attached to the present Administration.

Question. Who collected the tax from Weighers?

Answer. Mr. Vanderpoel.

Question. What office does Mr. Vanderpoel hold in the custom-house, and what is his salary?

Answer. At that time he held the office of Deputy Surveyor. I do not recollect the amount of his salary. I believe he now holds the office of Appraiser.

Question. Had he a book of the names of the officers from whom he collected, or had he a list of them?

Answer. A list.

Examined by Mr. Harlan.

Question. Are you acquainted with William M. Price, late District Attorney of the United States? If yes, please to state whether he was regarded, before and after his appointment, as a man worthy to be entrusted with the collection of large sums of money.

Answer. I am acquainted with William M. Price, late District Attorney, and answer the question in the negative.

Question. Was the last payment of \$15, referred to by you in your answer to the third question, paid before or since the present Collector (Mr. Hoyt) came into office?

Answer. Since the last Collector came into office.

Question. Were you removed from office by the present Collector? If yes, state when, and whether any reasons were assigned therefor, and what they were.

Answer. I was removed by Mr. Hoyt, (the present Collector,) but have never condescended to ask the reasons, and must, therefore, be under the necessity of referring to the Collector, who is now present.

ABRAHAM B. VANDERPOEL SWORN AS A WITNESS.

Examined by Mr. Wise.

Question. What offices have you held in the custom-house; when did you commence to hold them; what the salaries of offices held by you?

Answer. I was appointed to the office of Inspector of the Customs in May, 1829, at \$1,095 per year, and held it until 1836, when I was appointed Deputy Surveyor, at \$1,500 per year, and March, 1838, appointed Appraiser, at \$9,000 per year.

Question. Do you know whether the officers of the custom-house have ever been called on to contribute sums of money to party and political objects? What officers have been so called on; by whom; for what amount; with or without regard to their salaries of office, when did they contribute; if they refused, was any intimation given that their refusal might occasion their removal what amount has been contributed and collected, and for the support of what party, at any one election?

This interrogatory was objected to by Mr. Foster.

Mr. Foster called for the yeas and nays.

The question, Shall the interrogatory be propounded; was put, and decided in the affirmative, Yeas—Messrs. Curtis, Dawson, Harlan, Smith, Wise—5. Nays—Messrs. Foster, Owens, Wagener—3.

Other proceedings were had, in regard to which Mr. Wise offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the following fact be entered on the Journal: Mr. Wise propounded the witness, Abraham B. Vanderpoel, the following question, to wit:

Question. Do you know whether the officers of the custom-house have ever been called on to contribute sums of money to party and political objects; what officers have been so called upon; by whom; for what amount; with or without regard to their salaries of office; when did they contribute; if they refused, was any intimation given that their refusal might occasion their removal; what amount has been contributed or collected, and for the support of what party, at any one election?

The witness took the interrogatory without objection to propounding the same, and proceeded to write his answer thereon on the paper attached to the question, and had written the following to wit:

"I have known officers attached to the custom-house to have been called on for: When Mr. Owens, member of the Committee, interposed, and informed the witness that he was not bound to answer any interrogatory relating to his private affairs; and, thereupon, Mr. Foster, another member of the Committee, objected to propounding the interrogatory. The witness here commenced to tear off what he had written before objection was made to the interrogatory. Mr. Wise prevented him from doing so, by forbidding the act. Mr. Foster insisted that the witness had the right to tear off what he had written, and that it was not his answer until it was complete and handed in, and he asked the witness whether it was his answer, and he replied, "It was not;" and the Committee having decided that the interrogatory should be propounded, the question by Mr. Wise was again handed to the witness, and he returned the following: "I decline to answer the 2d question." The witness was then permitted to retire.

Mr. Curtis called for the yeas and nays on Mr. Wise's motion; and the resolution was adopted. Yeas—Messrs. Curtis, Dawson, Foster, Harlan, Owens, Smith, Wagener, Wise—8. Nays—None.

The examination of Mr. Lyon, continued by Mr. Wise.

Question. Whilst you were Deputy Collector at the port of New York, were you ever called on as an officer of the custom-house to contribute any sum or sums of money to party or political objects; if so, what amount? Was such amount, from you called for in consideration of your salary from Government? What provision did it bear to your salary? and you pay it? if not, why not? who called for such contributions? were other subordinates in the custom-house to your knowledge called on to contribute in like manner? for the support of what party, were these contributions called for? was any menace, directly or indirectly, of removal, held over these officers or yourself for failures to grant such contributions?

Mr. Owens objected to the interrogatory. The question, Shall the interrogatory be propounded? was put, and decided in the affirmative, the yeas and nays having been called for by Mr. Owens. Yeas—Messrs. Curtis, Dawson, Harlan, Smith, Wise—5. Nays—Messrs. Owens, Wagener—2.

Answer. I have frequent been called on to contribute to political objects while I was deputy Collector, as an officer of the custom-house. The amount was from twenty dollars to one hundred dollars. The tax was pro rata according to salary. It bore a proportion of from one to six per cent. I frequently paid a part of the amount; when it was too high, and more than I could afford, I urged them to reduce it; in one instance, where I was assessed twenty dollars, Mr. Swartwout told the collector of the tax that ten dollars was enough for me to pay. For a few years back I have not paid any thing to the General Committee, because I could not afford to pay the amount assessed; and because I could not conscientiously longer sustain the party. The collectors of the Tammany Hall General Committee